

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-35 Cancelled

36. (New) An artificial ski slope surface for laying on an underlying surface, said artificial surface comprising:

a looped filament carpet comprising a backing sheet with filaments woven through said backing sheet to provide a pile which is continuous across the backing sheet; and

a base layer that provides drainage and cushioning the base layer being fixed to the underlying surface and the carpet being releasably attached to said base layer.

37. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said base layer is attached to the underlying surface using fixing pins.

38. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said looped filament carpet has a construction whereby said filaments are woven through said backing sheet to provide loops.

39. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said filaments are made of at least one of polypropylene, PVC or nylon.

40. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said backing sheet is made of an absorbent material.

41. (New) The artificial ski slope surface of claim 40, wherein said backing sheet is made of moisture retaining felt.

42. (New) The artificial ski slope surface of claim 36, wherein said woven filaments are configured to retain water.

43. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said carpet is releasably attached to said base layer using a loop and hook arrangement.

44. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said carpet comprises at least two individual tessellating sections, each section comprising a projection along at least one edge, said projection being adapted to be releasably attached to the underside of a tessellating section.

45. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein said carpet is provided with a plurality of attachment strips secured to an underside of said carpet.

46. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein the woven filaments have a random directional weave pattern.

47. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 36, wherein the woven filaments have at least two different heights.

48. (New) The artificial ski slope surface as claimed in claim 47, wherein the difference in height between the shortest and longest loops is at least 15% of the height of the shortest loop.

49. (New) A method of constructing an artificial ski slope, said method comprising the steps:
 attaching a base layer configured to provide drainage and cushioning to an
 underlying surface; and
 releasably attaching a looped filament carpet to said base layer, said carpet

comprising a backing sheet to provide a pile which is continuous across said backing sheet.

50. (New) The method of constructing an artificial ski slope as claimed in claim 49, wherein the step of releasably attaching uses a hook and loop mechanisms.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said step of releasably attaching said carpet to said base layer further includes:

separately attaching a plurality of sections of said carpet to said base layer such that each section is also releasably attached to one or more adjacent sections.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein:
said plurality of sections tessellate.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, including:
providing said plurality of sections with a projection along at least one edge; and
releasably attaching said projection to the underside of a tessellating section.